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THE FOOL.

BY THOMAS BRAINLESS, ESQ. LL.D. JESTER TO HIS MAJESTY THE PUBLIC.

Salem, March 23, 1807.——No. 2.

TO EVERY BODY.

SINCE the publication of my first number, I have frequently fallen into company where it was the subject of conversation, and in several instances there appeared to be strong curiosity to know the names of my correspondents. Why will not the public be content to receive all the benefit of my lucubrations, without the *foolish* desire of knowing the instruments of their entertainment? But *foolish* as these inquirers are, there are others greater *fools* by half—and those are your *gnessers*.—And to crown the column of *Folly*, behold the knowing ones—the *positive* ones. For example, "Who do you think furnished this or that piece?" "Did not Mr. A. write this, Mr. B. that, and Mr. C. the other?" "Know his style?" "To be sure!—I am positive of it."

Now Know all FOOLS by these Presents, that I intend to keep my own secrets, and treat brother fools according to their folly. As for you, Mr. What-is't, who only inquire, I advise you to repress an idle curiosity; and I will inform Mr. Who's-there, that guesses, he guesses wrong nineteen times in twenty; and Mr. What-d'ye-call-'em, who is so positive, that like all other very positive men, [and women] that he is *never* right.——Now, gemmen let me go on to instruct those who are greater *fools* than myself, in my own way.

I should not have given myself the trouble of the above discussion, if my wife had not been seized with the epidemic above mentioned. Returning the other evening from a neighbour's tea-party, my wife introduced the subject of my paper, and praised this piece, and that piece, and the "typographical execution," and the Editor, and then looked lovingly, and wriggled in her chair. At length, just as I began to think she meant something, she exclaimed, with a warmth and tenderness that I have not witnessed since the honey-moon, (i. e. the month after Cornwallis was taken) "*My dear Mr. Brainless, did not Mr.* —— *write the enigmatical list of dancing tunes?*" "*My dear Keturah*, (quoth I, with a look that extinguished her curiosity) *you forget that we are to have a* PUDDING *tomorrow.*"

T. BRAINLESS.

Mr. Brainless,

I am one of those unfortunate beings, who cannot *keep their countenance* on certain unexpected events which are frequently occurring, which subjects me to numerous embarrassments.——Last summer I made an excursion to a country town to see my friend GEORGE GAMUT, who has spent two evenings a week, for almost 2 quarters, in a singing school; who can play between fifteen and sixteen tunes on the bass-viol, and two psalm tunes and part of a march (except the *half-notes*) on the German flute; and who has published two books of *original* music, and *can compose* as much more. My friend of course takes the lead of all the musical affairs of the town, and I had supposed his great genius and vast acquirements would have produced an astonishing degree of taste within the atmosphere of his influence. The day after my arrival being Sunday, I went to meeting, and was complimented with a seat near the choir of singers. Mr. YORICK, who preached, gave out the psalm which begins,

"*With reverence let the saints appear*
"*And bow before the Lord,*"

&c. The awful grandeur of the subject, and the reverential manner in which it was read, inspired me with a devotional solemnity, which it was, I thought, wicked to interrupt.——The singers rose, and after *groaning out* the pitch for a moment, struck up,

"*With reverence let the saints appear,*
"*And* BOW-WOW-WOW *before the Lord,*

in a tune so much like a jig, that in a moment I forgot where I was, and casting my eyes on the singers, who were *pawing* the *time*, and making ridiculous grimaces, I concluded they were *acting a play*, and burst into an *immoderate fit of laughter*. You may easily conceive my embarrassment, and the confusion of the congregation, which I soon quitted, and as I retired I observed in Mr. Yorick's countenance a mixture of disappointment and disgust, which threatened to suspend that frame of mind which became the place and the occasion.

N. B.—Mr. Gamut hates *Old Hundred*, and such *dull* old things, and declares he can compose tunes that will go *three times as fast*. SIMON SIMPLE.

A gentleman who had a *fool* for a son, had invited a party to dinner. Wishing to guard his son against exposure as much as possible, he charged him *not to speak*; in which case, added he, "the company will not know you are a fool." Some of the company arrived and were introduced into the

room where was nobody but my young gentleman, the father having stepped out. They addressed several questions to him, to none of which he made any answer, but sat bolt upright in a corner of the room, chuckling to himself to think how finely he eluded detection. One of the company exclaimed pettishly, "The lad is a *fool*." "Oh father, father, (cried the boy to the old gentleman, who was just coming in) they have found me out, though I spoke ne'er a word."

DR BOTHERUM SMOKUM, having quitted his former *profession* of *chimney sweeping*, now carries on the business of inventing and preparing his much approved mineral, vegetable and animal go-to bed-ical get up-ical go-to-sea-ical and stay-at-home-ical MEDICINES.

His patent cut-and-thrust phlebotomizing, emetic, cathartic and diuretic, double distilled and double barrelled *Fire and Brimstone Cordial*—An amiable, interesting, pleasing and agreeably innocent un-medicinal sudorific, nephritic, anthelmintic, narcotic, tonic, stimulant, alterant, astringent, stomachic, belly-achic diaphoretic, aperient, emollient, carminative, sedative, rubefacient, antispasmodic, pectoral, crural and femoral emmenagogue. It is a sovereign specific and instantaneous remedy for *distempers*; acute, chronic, nervous, general, local, real and imaginary, and epidemic disorders; for gunshot wounds, simple and compound fractures, casualties of all kinds, and sudden death. It operates equally on the body, mind, estate real and personal, and place of residence of the patient. It is an efficacious and safe cosmetic, removing the pernicious periosteum, and rendering it clear and smooth to a fault. It clears the bile and gastric juice from the brain, and induces a calm train of ideas. It removes obstructions in the capillary tubes, viz. the thoracic duct, œsophagus, cæcum, &c. &c. It extirpates the spinal marrow, which is the cause of such frequent and fatal complaints. It dissipates adipose tumours, and premature births, and is an effectual preventive against old age. It assists nature in her attempts at amputation in disorders of the head and pluck. From its styptic qualities it is eminently useful in promoting excessive hemorrhages, by which surgical operations of all kinds become unnecessary. By rinsing the mouth daily with this cordial the epiglottis becomes firmly fixed in its socket, and carious teeth adhere closely to the metatarsus, by which means deglutition and chylification progress regularly. The muscles which become flaccid by use are restored to an ossified state, as well as the arterial system. Applied to the eyes it removes the three humours, and eradicates the optic nerve; and in disorders of the ears it will be found useful in perforating the tympanum. In extreme watchfulness and nervous irritability it induces a permanent and uninterrupted sleep. In sudden attacks from an enemy's cavalry it brings on an instantaneous coma which may save the patient's life. From its drying qualities it is useful in cases of drowning; and hanging yields to its elevating stimulus.

Price $10 *per bottelum*.

☞ To prevent counterfeits, every bottle is wrapped in a twenty dollar bill of Detroit bank. By this means a great saving is made to those who purchase by the dozen.

Further particulars of this and other medicines in our next.

A couple of gentlemen were one day viewing the exercise of a company of volunteers newly raised, most of whom were very *slender* young men —— One of them says to the other, "The Dutchess of ***** (who by the way has *quantum sufficit* of the *embonpoint*) is about to furnish the corps before us with *arms*." "Oh! (cried the other) her grace would do better to furnish the striplings with *legs*, which would place them upon a much more respectable *footing*." That's *handsomely turned*, (quoth the other) like her grace's limbs, so that there would be no fear of their being *disbandy'd*." "And (added the former) the volunteers would probably receive the gratuity on their *knees*." "Yes, (said his friend) and to be deposited in"—Here the string of puns was interrupted by a fire of battalion.

Mr. Brainless,

When at school, I learned, by the frequent impulse of the ferule on my smarting hand (though I was never a *smart hand* at learning) that the verb "drink" was thus conjugated: "*drink*; past time *drank*; participle *drunk*, or *drunken*."—Now I would recommend to all editors, when they give an account of a *celebration*, &c. instead of saying "the following toasts were *drank*," to express themselves more properly, and say, "the following toasts were *drunk*, [or *drunken*]," particularly if their number should happen to be 20 or 30 or 40."

Yours, &c. "STULTUS,"

As my schoolmaster used to call me:

P.S.—[which signifies *master of arts*, I believe.] Why do so many people write "sat *out in* a coach," or *sat out* on *foot?* *SAT* VERBUM.

To save my readers the trouble of *guessing* why I assume the title of LL.D. I beg leave to inform them that I feel as well qualified to interpret laws, as many of my *brethren* are to make or mend them, particularly one newly elected representative, who made a journey to Boston before the session of the General Court, and walked three times round the state house, "*that legislation might not be entirely new to him.*"——This brings to my mind an anecdote of Lord THOMAS PIPER, whose manor lies near the entrance of the turnpike road that leads

to Boston. He some time since applied to a professional gentleman and requested permission to see a note of hand. The gentleman wondered at the object of his request, but was soon led to understand that Lord Thomas intended to commence the practice of law, and naturally concluding that in the prosecution of his new business he should be called to *sue notes of hand*, he was desirous to know "how they *looked*," that he might be able to distinguish a note from a newspaper or sand-box.

NEW SHOP.

The subscribers inform the public in general, and GENTLEMEN OF LEISURE in particular, that they have formed a connection in business, and propose to open a shop in some convenient part of the town, where they will offer the following gratuitous accommodations. Gentlemen (such as are not customers) will be allowed the best seats round the fire places, where they may talk loud, smoke or drink, as they think fit. The account books of the firm shall be open for their inspection and amusement. Scales, steelyards, &c. shall be furnished for persons marketing, who will be supplied with best gilt letter-paper to wrap up sausages, &c. Specie will be given for counterfeit and worn-out bills, and small change lent to any amount, without a wish for reimbursement. Gentlemen who favour the subscribers with their company are requested when a female customer enters, to crowd close upon her, stare her out of countenance, bore her with impertinent remarks, and talk obscenely and profanely. In moderate weather they will please to blockade the door-way, and by every means in their power prevent the entrance of such a *nuisance* as a *customer*.

The subscribers doubt not that a plan of such extensive and *rational* accommodation will meet with liberal patronage from an enlightened public.

TOM NODDY,
DICK HAIRBRAIN,
HARRY SOFTSKULL.

LITERARY NOTICE.—Mr. Brainless receives subscriptions for a most interesting new novel, entitled "The Victim of Hyper-sensibility, or the Fatal effects of Sheep's Eyes; by a young African lady, aged eight years." The table of contents is in poetry; and an enigmatical list of the *sentiments* contained in the work will be given in a separate atlas in *red-hot*-pressed paper.

Is it not surprising, Mr. Brainless, that certain unassuming legislators, who would not for the world interfere in the doings of a court-martial, should not be willing to ease the shoulders of our courts of judicature, and enact that a man who has been there acquitted, shall be hung up in front of their *salle legislative?* If our courts are encumbered with a certain nuisance called conscience, does it not behove the sovereign people, legally represented, to remove the obstacle, and give full play to the strong "sensations" of an effigy-making mob. [By the way, we are too much of *fools* to know or guess who instigate, who connive at, who abet, and who are the humble tools of an effigizing administration.] Quere—Are the lives, liberty and property of our citizens in safety, where the supreme tribunal of the land refuses the testimony of a man, (a good imported patriot too) who would swear that Mr. A. did not lift his stick till after he was *killed?!!!*

TO OUR WISE LEGISLATORS.

The preamble of the constitution of Massachusetts begins thus, "The END of the institution, maintenance and administration of Government, is to secure the existence of the body politic; to protect it; and to furnish the individuals who compose it, with the power of enjoying in safety and tranquillity, their natural rights, and the blessings of life."——Now, may it please your most sapient, profound, discriminating, scrutinizing, disinterested and impartial mightinesses of the majority, the obvious signification of the word "END" is *termination;* hence your mightinesses will perceive that the good people of this commonwealth have been labouring under a most mortifying error for twenty-seven years, and have lived under a violation of the very LETTER of the constitution; as for the SPIRIT, your mightinesses' consciences can testify that *that* IS IMMATERIAL. It is therefore proposed to your mightinesses that it be unanimously resolved, as the sense of our citizens legally represented, that the following be considered as the true intent and meaning of the passage above quoted—"The existence of the body politic; the protection of it; the furnishing the individuals who compose it with the power of enjoying in safety and tranquility their natural rights and the blessing of life, cannot take place till the institution, maintenance and administration of government come to an END," and that they proceed on this new interpretation to demolish the federal shackles which have so long fettered the said good citizens of this commonwealth.

DICK SNERRY.

We received a communication from Messrs. "*Cæsar & Co.*" but in the true character of *fools*, we *lent it;*—should it be returned it shall have a place in our next.

A Newyork paper says—"*Turkey* will melt before Bonaparte's arms."—He will of course have *Greece*.

THE HELICONIAN FOUNT,

Owing to the late freshets, has become so turbid that it yields nothing but *prose*, or something worse. APOLLO of course is obliged to *wet his whistle* with a *dram*, and the Muses retire to their closets to sip "*cordial*."

We understand that some time ago a certain great personage exclaimed on some occasion, "*The D—l is in Massachusetts.*" We do not see that our General Court in their address, made any acknowledgement of this elegant, christian and philosophical compliment.

The writer of a letter from Marblehead to the Editor, giving an account of the burning of the "Lying Pamphlet," after saying he was *sorry* they had *alarm'd* the *town* of Salem, but wished they had the *cursed author* and printer there, proceeds: "We *started* from the *town-house* went *down warff lane, crossed athert train-field-hill*, and *arroived* at the *foarms* at the back *poart* of *Marlhead*"——there we had better leave them.

SUPERFINE PUN.

A trader was proposing to his partner to make a speculation in *Coffee*. Oh! no, (cried the other) it would be dangerous speculation. Why so? (asks the first)—Because (says the latter) I don't know an article which causes people to *break-fast* more than coffee.

GRANNY-DEARS!!!

Gentlemen of a suitable minuteness (3 feet 10 inches and under) who are desirous of associating for the formation of a corps of *Granny-Dears*, are requested to leave their names with

THOMAS THUMB,
Grand Marshal of Lilliput.

THE NOOTKA SOUND HORSE-MARINE SOCIETY

Is informed that a meeting will be held at their CAVE on the first day of April next, that the members may have their noses bored and their skins *tattooed* previous to their anniversary procession and dinner. At the same time and place an acknowledgment will be made to the Hottentot Association for their donation of seal-fat, soot and sheep's entrails.

Per Order, OMAI LEE BOO, *Clerk.*

FOOL SHIP NEWS.

Gun Boat No. 1, has been spoken, high and dry, in a Georgia Corn-Field, expecting an attack from the enemy.

INFALLIBLE RECEIPT TO INSURE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

First get a *Jacobin Town Clerk*, who, when a Moderator (for March Meeting) is nominated, will be sure to hear the name of one of his own party; and such an one will be chosen, who during the rest of the meeting will have the same convenient organs of hearing, whenever an officer is chosen by hand vote. An *harmonizing* set of Selectmen will be chosen, who, presiding at the future elections, will be able to hear, see, believe and judge as they think fit. When things are in this train, begin to prate about the "talents" of your party, and leave the event to chance. *Probatum Est.*

Specimen of a new book of *definitions*, now in press, to be entitled "The Complete Columbo-Fredonio-Americo-Yankeian Definologist's Vade Mecum and Tecum, and Only Sure Guide to a Correct Interpretation of Language."

PATRIOT.—A runaway from justice and his own country.

LIBERTY.—The condition in which a conscript finds himself, when he is hand-cuffed in order to be sent to the Vistula to have his *hair queued.*

EQUALITY.—The representation of a southern negro driver, exercising his whip upon his sable charge.

DIGNITY OF HUMAN NATURE.—A southern planter *selling his own yellow offspring.*

REPUBLICANISM.—Synonimous with *Bonapartism*, which see.

LOVE.—The act of preferring a profitable marriage speculation, to the slow accumulation of industry; or a word made for the accommodation of poets and poetasters.

PUBLIC SPIRIT.—Two words, each containing half a dozen letters, used by dictionary-makers to swell their book.

To alleviate the painful impatience of our patrons, and to exercise their ingenuity, we think fit to inform them, that our next number, which will contain such an extensive fund of sublime instruction as will "astonish the natives," will be published on the first Wednesday next immediately following this present month of March, 1807; at which time we shall commence a new æra, to be styled the first day of the firs week of the first month of the first year of the first age of Folly.

"Vive la Bagatelle."

☞ *A solution of the following is requested.*